

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

Volume 11

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, JANUARY 20-26, 1946

Number 4

WITHIN THE WEEK

Pres TRUMAN said quite confidently this wk that if his fact-finding measure had been passed by Congress before recess, the GM strike would be settled by now. That's what FDR used to term an "iffy" situation. While such action would have given Mr TRUMAN's hastily-convened board a certain legality it now lacks, there's nothing in the proposed law to compel disputants to accept the board's conclusions. To introduce such compulsion would do violence to the principles of collective bargaining.

Of course the conclusions of the panel are not "facts" in any accounting sense of the term, and there has been little effort to present them as such. The recommendation of a 17½-cent wage raise represents merely a group *opinion*. It may be too high; it may be too low. The fact that the same rate of increase is proposed in settlement of the Ford case is further evidence that this is little more than another attempt at compromise.

Mr TRUMAN's fact-finding measure presents a strange situation in contemporary legislative history. Actually, no one seems to care much about the bill except the sponsor. Business, of course, rejects the philosophy to adjusting wages to any sort of "ability-to-pay" formula. This is viewed as the 1st step toward regulating and standardizing profits. Labor is dead set against the "cooling-

off" provision. Even tho it might be evaded, they fear it would limit the strike as a strategic weapon. Furthermore, the labor group as a whole isn't too keen on "ability-to-pay" theory. They are beginning to see, as we pointed out some time ago, that this policy carried to its logical conclusion could be employed to justify low wages in slack periods or in low-profit companies. Theoretically, it would force a separate union scale in every plant; a scale which would have to be adjusted to varying economic conditions. The net result would be to penalize workers in plants where poor management resulted in low profits, since plants would obviously have less "ability to pay."

AUTO PRODUCTION: Because GM gets headlines, opinion seems to be that auto production is at standstill. Matter of fact, cars are being turned out continuously; production is gradually rising. Ford is making 1200 cars daily, would double that output except for material shortages. Several other companies are producing. Much henceforth will hinge on outcome of steel strike.

MEAT: You can discount Pres TRUMAN's statement that he has no intention of interfering. Despite personal pique because of congressional inaction, he'll have to step in, take over industry, if strike lasts.



SHIFTING SANDS

While U S labor and management squabble over fractions, municipal employes of Tokyo are going all out with demand for 300% wage boost. Men now draw 170 yen (\$11.33) monthly; women, 50 yen (\$3.33) . . . One reason OPA gave in, reluctantly, on proposed \$4 increase in price of steel: it will reflect in cost of many products; mfrs of those products may be expected to try to increase prices. This activity will play into Bowles' hand when he seeks renewal of price-control powers . . . If you think you have troubles consider the sad case of a friend of ours who breeds silver foxes: Restless reynards dislike strangers intensely. They learn to distinguish between odors of individual humans. If an unfamiliar caretaker approaches, nervous vixen may turn upon and devour her young. But with the labor turnover so rapid, the breeder laments, "I can't keep help long enough for the foxes to become accustomed to their scent!"



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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"We have been played for suckers by the continual changing of regulations." — Soldier spokesman for group of disgruntled GI's in Manila. 1-Q

"Russia has an atom bomb which renders the Anglo-American atom bomb obsolete. The Russians have developed a high degree of control over atomic energy as an explosive and should be able to use it in large-scale blasting." — Dr R E G ARMATTOE, British scientist. 2-Q

"People say, 'It looks as tho Pres Truman's honeymoon with the press is over.' As a working reporter, I resent this. There should be no such thing as 'honeymooning' or not 'honeymooning' with the Pres of the U S. His actions should be assayed solely on their individual merits." — GEO DIXON, Washington correspondent, in *Cosmopolitan*. 3-Q

"Labor, like motherhood, is here to stay." — ELIOT JANEWAY, political editor, *Life* and *Fortune* mag's. 4-Q

"I want to see the big city and the high buildings and I want to watch the people who wear shoes walk by." — RUBY YOCUM, 19, of Yellville, Ark, alighting from a train in Kans City, wearing blue denim trousers, red-striped shirt and cowboy boots. 5-Q

"He believed that the causes of most wars would be removed if a better understanding could be achieved. He felt that way about the Japanese." — Mr and Mrs ROBERT JOHNSTONE, of Downingtown, Pa. When their son was killed in battle on Luzon, they used his \$10,000 Gov't insurance to establish a scholarship for Japanese students at Lafayette College. 6-Q

"The Navy at this moment is unfit to fight. The saving grace is that there is nobody who threatens to fight us at present." — Adm CHESTER W NIMITZ, addressing Associated Press managing editors, at Miami, Fla. 7-Q

"I want to register as a voter, go into business and be a freeborn American. I've got to repair my de-

"MAY WE

Quote

YOU ON THAT?"

pleted fortune. When I came into the gov't I was worth about \$150,000. Now, I am worth about 150 cents." — MAURY MAVERICK, chairman, Smaller War Plants Corp'n, announcing his imminent retirement from federal service. 8-Q

"I just got married, and I want some place to stay on my 1st night." — Plaintiff of a bridegroom in Ashland, Ky, who tried to put thru a long-distance "emergency" call to Huntington, W Va. (The operator had no heart for romance; call was ruled out.) 9-Q

"Reports show that the Germans are far more interested in stories of American soldiers' demonstrations which they, of course, distort into mutinies, than they are in the Nuernberg trials." — American Army officer in the German occupied area. 10-Q

"It is necessary to say that the America of big business is not less reactionary in internat'l relations than it is towards every progressive measure to benefit the workers of the U S." — HAROLD LASKI, chairman, British Labor party executive committee. 11-Q

"The world is a great deal farther along than in the yr I was born. I expect it to move onward and upward for a million yrs." — CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, noted suffrage leader, celebrating her 87th birthday. 12-Q

"If the same national effort were expended on cancer research that went into the making of the atomic bomb, we would be equally successful." — Col STAFFORD WARREN, medical director, Manhattan project. 13-Q

"More recently we have been talking with brutal frankness, and have insisted on our rights. The Russians like that." — An American Army Officer, discussing American-Soviet relations in the German occupied area. 14-Q

"The church is the only group in Germany which shows any real sign of understanding democratic and representative gov't. In both Protestant and Catholic churches, congregations crowd into shattered, heatless, windowless, roofless bldgs, giving evidence that Christianity is alive. I met a group of 100 theological students who only a few mo's ago were officers in the German army." — Dr WALTER ROBERT MATTHEWS, dean of St Paul's, London, quoted in the *London Spectator*. 15-Q

"I charge them plenty, but they just pay and keep coming. They love it." — EUNICE SKELLY, operator of swank N Y beauty parlor, commenting on increasing number of males who are turning to "beauty" treatments. 16-Q

"He should go to the UNO to lead the peoples of the world to the future he did so much to make possible." — *London Daily Express* editorial nominating Gen'l EISENHOWER as man most qualified to assume leadership of United Nations Organization. 17-Q


"When anyone else goes into business in competition with you, my policy is to pay attention to my own business and try to improve it." — BERT BELL, newly-elected commissioner of the National Football League, referring to rival All-America Conference. 18-Q


"By the time I paid social security and withholding taxes on my civilian salary, I wasn't as well off as I am in the Army. Besides, I missed Army ways." — CLARENCE GEORGE. Discharged as Army major, re-enlisted six weeks later as a staff sergeant. 19-Q

"I don't wish to be spoken to." — GRETA GARBO, screen actress, on being greeted by fan in a Kansas City hat shop. 20-Q

"Bathtubs are the only things of value America has contributed to progress in the last 40 yrs." — GERTRUDE STEIN. (Quoted by American soldier in a letter to *Stars and Stripes*. 21-Q

On the Other Hand

 "Sound and fair" — SCHWELLENBACH, Sec'y of Labor, denoting his approval of findings of presidential fact-finding board for 25,000 CIO workers.

"Reduces the entire fact-finding approach in industrial disputes to an absurdity." — O A KNIGHT, pres. Oil Workers Internat'l Union (CIO), commenting on findings of same presidential fact-finding board. 

"This clamor to bring the boys home gets back to the soldier and has a very definite influence on his attitude and morale. He thinks, 'Well, if everyone says bring us on home, we must not have much to do over here.'"

"It's extremely difficult for a commanding officer—in the face of this kind of thing—to convince the men of the real importance of their assignment.

"If the democratic Allies believe that a good solid occupation of hostile territory is necessary, it's up to us to keep our forces at reasonable strength."—DWIGHT D EISENHOWER, Army Chief of Staff. 22-Q

"I now predict that the Republican party will produce no program at all . . . Senator Taft and his colleagues . . . have made it clear that the old guard controls the party. And the Republican old guard never has had a program to offer this country and never will have one." — ROBERT E HANNEGAN, Democratic nat'l chairman. 23-Q

"The rejoicing with which the Chinese people receive the Kuomintang-Communist cease fire or-

der is no less than the Japanese surrender announcement." — From a Yen'an broadcast, reported by Associated Press. 24-Q

"The GI Bill will work splendidly if it is honestly accepted. But it will not work if people expect the veteran to pay prices so flagrantly inflated that in many instances they are up 75% or more."

—JOHN THOMAS TAYLOR, legislative director of American Legion, accusing some real estate men of sabotaging soldier loans for homes to make inflated commissions. 25-Q

"We just didn't think it was feasible to name a candidate for a good citizenship award sponsored by an organization which refused the Negro musicians, Marian Anderson and Hazel Scott, permission to use Constitution Hall for concerts." — CAROL WALL, 16-yr-old mbr of Senior Class of Crosby H S, Waterbury, Conn, explaining why class voted to reject annual Good citizenship Pilgrimage Award of the D A R. The award, a travel scholarship to American historical shrines, is offered high school representative from each state. 26-Q

"In this demobilization crisis we feel that the paper has been usurped from enlisted personnel to be converted into a 'house organ' for the War Dep't."—Enlisted men of the Tokyo edition of *Stars and Stripes*. 27-Q

"I am no fool. I quite understand there are 22 million people in this country out to beat the Ministry of Food. I don't squeal at that, and I hope they won't squeal if I catch them."—Sir BEN SMITH, Britain's new Minister of Food, who has no illusions about the magnitude of the job ahead of him. 28-Q

"All Britain needs is a chance to come back economically. If we don't give her that chance, then we might as well say goodbye to our aim of a world with expanding trade and rising standards of living."—Acting Sec'y of State, DEAN ACHESON. He warned that if U S did not give Britain financial assistance, the postwar world may be

divided into "warring economic blocs." 29-Q

"Normally, yes, but it hasn't been for 4 yrs."—Answer received by an Army public relations officer who telephoned a ry office to inquire if an incoming train was normally on time. 30-Q

"I'm just a Pfc — that means picket first class."—A CIO picket at struck plant of WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC, E Pittsburgh, Pa, explaining that his group had adopted military procedure and borrowed Army titles. 31-Q

"The UAW-CIO isn't going to operate as an economic pressure group. We have refused to conspire with GM to bring about a longer work wk—with millions of unemployed in prospect. We have refused to pocket a wage increase and look the other way while the corporation used it to extort a higher price. We are part of the community. We intend to make progress with the community . . . Labor is not fighting for a larger slice of the nat'l pie. Labor is fighting for a larger pie."—WALTER P REUTHER, v-p, UAW, "GM vs the Rest of Us," *New Republic*. 32-Q



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AMERICA'S LARGEST PUBLISHER OF SPEECH MATERIAL

QUOTE is issued weekly by Drake House, Indianapolis, Indiana, Maxwell Drake, Editor; Lucy Hille, Associate Editor. Subscription: \$5 per year in advance, in U. S. and Possessions. Two years, \$8. Your own and a gift subscription, \$8. Foreign, \$7 per year. Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office at Indianapolis, Indiana, under Act of March 3, 1879. QUOTE uses no original manuscripts; does not accept advertising. Persons using material from QUOTE should credit original sources. Unidentified items may be credited to QUOTE.



COLUMNIST'S COLUMN

"Nuts!"

MARCIA WINN
Chicago Tribune

A news item from Brussels around Christmas time told of a cataclysmic change in the coat of arms of a battered European town.

Bastogne, according to the dispatch, is working up a new heraldic device which, instead of using such time-tried Latin phrases as "ad astra per aspera" will bear the single word, "Nuts."

This is the caustic reply of Maj Gen'l McAuliffe to the Nazis when asked to surrender.

This is probably the 1st occasion when a word, not only slang but one which two decades ago was considered vulgar, has been given a place of honor in a city hall shield.

We refer, of course, to nuts in its sense of denial or disparagement which, when first used in the U S, came in scanty disguise as "nertz." H L Mencken did considerable research on the word in preparation for his book, *The American Language*. He concluded it was coined in Hollywood in the '20's, as part of "a movement to reintroduce the old 4-letter words to polite society by inserting a euphemistic 'r' in them. Although for a time the word was restricted to saloons and smart society, soon sweet governesses, grandmothers, young matrons and 4-yr-olds were using it. Even so, it has not been completely accepted by dictionaries . . . Webster ignores it.

The whole thing must be thoroughly confusing to any foreigner groping with American speech, and our own private bet is that the good burghers of Bastogne haven't the slightest idea what, if anything, McAuliffe said to the Nazis.

AGE—Youth—1

Someone asked Moriz Rosenthal whether youth is a necessary factor in musical success. The 81-yr-old pianist replied: "A man is young if a lady can make him happy or unhappy. He enters middle-age when a lady can make him happy, but no longer unhappy. He is old and gone if a lady can make him neither happy nor unhappy. I am still a young man!" — Ted Corr, *Victor Book of Musical Fun* (Simon & Schuster)

COURTESY—2

Courtesy is like oil. It keeps our contacts with each other and the public running smoothly. It prevents friction that wastes energy and generates heat under the collar.—From a leaflet for employees of N Y Central System.

DEATH—3

A skeptical writer said some yrs ago that we ought not be troubled about death. In our unwillingness to die, he said, we were no better than a lot of peevish children, who, having played outdoors all day, were unwilling to come in at evening. You might hasten to add that children are called in at the close of day with a purpose. — A Gordon Nasby, "The House Not Made With Hands," *Expositor*, 1-'46.

DRINK—Drinking—4

She puts vitamins in her gin so she can build up while she's tearing herself down.—TONI GILBERT, *She*.

ECONOMICS—5

A nat'l economy resembles a top in that the faster it spins the more stable it is.—A W ROBERTSON, "American Economic Stability," *Vital Speeches*, 12-15-'45.

EDUCATION—6

It is a sure sign that one is becoming educated when he discovers that subjects previously unknown or uninteresting become interesting.—HERBERT E HAWKES, *Thru a Dean's Open Door*. (McGraw-Hill)

FAITH—7

During the 1st evacuation of children from bomb-torn areas of

London, a train was leaving packed with children. Many of them had never been on a train, and most of them had never been in the country. The parents of a small boy and girl had just said good-by to their children and left them standing on the platform. The little girl began to cry, and said she was afraid because she did not know where she was going. Her little brother, brushing his own tears away, put an arm around her in an effort to comfort her, and said, "I do not know where we are going either, but the king knows."—*Day By Day*.

FREEDOM—8

True freedom is not a gift which one may give to another or any nation may confer upon its citizens. Freedom in individual, community and world life is attained like freedom at the piano keyboard. It involves the discipline necessary to reading the master score and to skillful interpretation of that score.—R W ALBRIGHT, *North Carolina Churchman*.

FRIENDSHIP—Abused—9

The quickest way to wipe out a friendship is to sponge on it — *Woodmen Mag.*

INTERNAT'L RELATIONS—10

Fair dealing among all nations may be in sight but so is Mars.—*Banking*.

JAPANESE—Customs—11

First GIs in Japan had a tough time trying to hitchhike rides. Whenever they gave a Jap vehicle the old "thumb," the driver would look panicky and step on the gas instead of stopping. Finally the boys learned the answer from English-speaking Japs. Over there, a jerk of the thumb means "Scram!" —*This Wk.*

KNOWLEDGE—Basis—12

We do not believe, for example, that education can safely be left with those who see our culture solely thru the eyes of formal religion . . . But we are equally suspicious of those empiricists who believe the truth is to be found only in experiment, a position that finally implies the denial of any stable truth. We believe that the

main task of education is to interpret at all stages both the general and the particular; both the common sphere of truth and the specific avenues of growth and change. — Report of the Harvard Committee, *General Education in a Free Society*. (Harper)

They DO Say . . .

"A sharp nose indicates curiosity. A flattened nose indicates too much curiosity." Moderately good gag. *Internat'l Digest* liked it so well they used it twice in current issue . . . In a Jan editorial, *Jnl of American Dental Ass'n* counsels dentists ret'g from armed services to avoid cities, settle in rural areas where they're needed, better incomes are assured . . . Now it can be told: Signature of Gen'l EISENHOWER on *Yank's* honorable discharge from the service (Dec 28 issue) is a forgery. When art was made MARSHALL was still Chief of Staff. With change of office, there was no time to get EISENHOWER sig. An artist forged it. *Yank* got the Gen'l's approval while issue was being distributed . . . Ha ha headline of wk: *Cincinnati Enquirer's*, "Water Little Flower With Big Pension," referring, of course, to LA GUARDIA life income as retiring Mayor of NYC . . . MARGARET FISHBACK, in *Liberty*, reflects a current domestic trend: Prospective cook, interviewing the mistress, asks, "Does y'all peel, ma'am, or does yo' birdseye?"

LONGEVITY—13

They were talking about epigraphs. "What would you like inscribed on your tombstone?" producer Wm Cahn was asked. He replied: "Wm Cahn—Born 1909—Died 2009."—*Hollywood Reporter*.

MARRIED LIFE—14

Asked why the *Emporia Gazette* hadn't gone "slam bang" for Willie, early in the '40 presidential campaign, Wm Allen White replied that it was because he hadn't met Mrs Willie. "You don't know a man until you know his wife. She

reveals 2 things: first, the skill and wisdom of the picker, which is most important; second, by her own character, she points the way of his future course. A man's wife is a revelation of his real self." — DAVID HINSHAW, *A Man From Kansas*. (Putnam)

MISSIONARY SERVICE—15

A young lady, seeing a group of admirers gathered around a woman who had given a faithful and successful service in a foreign field, said she would like to be a ret'd missionary if it were not for being an outgoing missionary. — *Christian Herald*.

ORIGIN—Tuxedo—16

When you wear a tuxedo, you are literally attiring yourself in wolf's clothing. The word is from Algonquin *ptuksit*, round-footed, applied in scorn to the Wolf Tribe of the Delaware Indians. In the 80's, the Tuxedo club was established; from this the tailless dinner jacket found its name.—JOS T SHIPLEY, *Dictionary of Word Origins*. (Philosophical Library)

PRAYER—17

"Hey!" shouted the passing motorist. "Your house is on fire!" "Ah knows it, stranger," nodded the mountaineer.

"Then why aren't you doing something about it?"

"Ah am," he answered. "Ah'm prayin' fo' rain."

" "

About midnight the drowsy sentry decided it was safe to take a short rest. He sat on a large rock with his rifle between his knees and began to doze off.

Noiselessly the officer of the guard approached and, shaking the sentry roughly by the shoulders, said: "Soldier, you are under arrest for sleeping on duty!"

Mindful of the weight that religion carries in the services, the soldier quickly replied: "A man can't even have a minute of prayer without someone coming along to spoil it."—*Magazine Digest*.

PROGRESS—or Lack—18

Life is like a ladder, every step we take is either up or down. — ROGER BABSON.



CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE

The current search for UNO headquarters brings to mind the circumstances surrounding the selection of a home for League of Nations. Legend has it that a waiter contributed substantially in the final decision. Col HOUSE had been hesitating between Lausanne and Geneva, his inclination being toward the former. On an impulse, he fell to discussing the matter with the waiter at his table. He was given such an acc't of the perfections of Geneva that he was completely won over. When delegates met to vote on the site, he used his persuasive powers in favor of Geneva.

OPA officials in many localities are saying privately that black mkt operations are now "worse than wartime." Both operators and public are now released from patriotic inhibitions. Price ceilings are sidestepped thru various subterfuges. Favored strategy is old familiar practice of selling a rationed and unrationed article at combined price. Example: a small truck and a bird dog recently sold for \$900. Ceiling on truck: \$547. Dog was later re-sold for \$15. Landlords are equally ingenious. Prospective tenant pays ceiling rent, several times normal value for furnishings. Outrageous upgrading is now almost an accepted practice, especially in bldg materials. Racketeering in garage repair service has become all but fantastic. Garage does half-way job. When owner kicks at inferior work, they say, "We'll do it again for so-much-more, and guarantee it this time."

Wall St Jnl has just completed survey of black mkt operations in 7 cities with findings that are frightening to respectable laymen.



AUTOMOBILES: New auto brake, sans linings and servicing, is being demonstrated by the inventor of the coaster-brake for bikes. (*Printers' Ink*)

AVIATION: Newly-developed AAF gadget permits flying by stars in broad daylight. Looks like combination telescope and surveyor's instrument. Attached to lower end of tube is eyepiece turret with 3 mounts giving 10x, 20x and 40x magnification. Prism within the tube blends light rays thru 90°. Stars and planets brighter than half a magnitude may be observed at any time if favorable atmospheric conditions prevail. Added insurance against being lost. (*A P dispatch*)

HORTICULTURE: Revolutionary practice in battling insect pests involves sodium selenate — poison which when applied to soil in which plants grow, makes plants poisonous to insects. Has been used on greenhouse plants; now considered "out of the experimental stage." One suggested use is on shade trees, often so tall they cannot be readily sprayed with insect repellent. (*Cornell University bulletin*)

OFFICE APPLIANCES: New line indicator attachable to any typewriter, tells how many lines remain until bottom of page is reached. (*Wall St Jnl*)

TRANSPORTATION: Testing table that vibrates and shakes like a freight car, even to pitch and toss, has been designed to test pkgs, products to make sure they arrive in good condition. One hr's test equals coast-to-coast freight trip. Packing methods may be comparatively tested for efficiency and cost; freight damage losses will be reduced. (*Forbes*)

RACE—Discrimination—19

The impression you get from certain defeatists is that the Negro is in some way responsible for perpetuation of syphilis and TB. Every honest scientist (and scientists are not one bit more honest than ordinary people) knows that there is no detectable chemical or biological difference between the Negro and white man. The disease problem has little or nothing to do with racial differences. The true cause is the low economic status in a large proportion of a given population. The higher syphilis rate among Negroes is due not to their being colored but to the fact that they're poor. Among Negroes of the more fortunate economic brackets, the rates are low, just as they are among better-heeled white people. —PAUL DE KRUIF, "Negro America vs Syphilis," *Negro Digest*, 1-'46.

REGIMENTATION—20

Chas V was determined to compel all his subjects to adopt his way of thinking about religion. Thousands died rather than conform. Weary of a long reign, Chas abdicated in 1556, and retired to a monastery, where he amused himself by trying to make a dozen clocks run absolutely together.

When he failed, he exclaimed: "How foolish I have been to think that I could make all men believe alike about religion when I cannot even make 2 clocks run together." —REV WALTER L LINGLE, "The Man With the Muck Rake," *Christian Observer*, 1-2-'46.

SAFETY—Safe Driving—21

Posted conspicuously at the entrance of a midwestern town is the following sign:

5,104 persons died of gas last yr.
44 inhaled it.
60 put a lighted match to it.
5,000 stepped on it. —Alexander Animator.

SERVICE—to Others—22

"They have a custom in certain parts of Africa," says a missionary, "of asking every chief for his losako, or life motto. I met an old chief one day . . . and asked for his losako. The chief slowly and reverently repeated, 'When you pass thru the jungle be very careful to

break a twig, that the next man may find his way.'" —*Present Truth Messenger*.

SPIRITUAL LIFE—23

There is an Oriental legend of a fountain possessed of the mysterious power of propagating itself thru every drop of its water. Wherever in the sandy waste a traveler spilled a drop, a fountain of living water broke out. So long as he had this water with him, he had the secret of unfailing springs . . . The sincere Christian soul carries with him the power, derived from his Master, that causes springs of spiritual refreshment to bubble up in the wilderness path of life. —*Sunday at Home*.

TRIAL & ERROR—24

This is the story of an effort by U S Rubber Co to find a superior seed disinfectant: One or more tests were made with 2088 new chemicals. Of this group 568 showed some ability to kill fungi on glass slides. In further tests, 559 of the 568 would disinfect barley seed, but that was in the laboratory. In the greenhouse soil only 69 made good. Of the 69, only 10 worked in economical doses. Of these 10 only 4 were effective on different types of seeds. When 1st yr's work was done only 2, of the 2088 with which a start was made, seemed promising in field tests. Field tests will take one to 3 yrs. If one of the 2 survive, it will be sent to State experimental stations for final approval. Some 4 to 9 yrs after the start, the disinfectant may be ready to offer farmers. No wonder they speak of patient scientists! —WHEELER MACMILLEN, *Farm Jnl*.

WAR—Weapons—25

You don't stop with the atomic bomb. This weapon opens a whole new field. Nobody has yet done much about sound and light, for example. There are degrees of sound over and above the ability of the human ear to record that are deathly. There are vibrations that can shake down whole cities. There are light forms—Infrareads and violet rays—that are devastating. —Gen'l GEO C KENNEY, "Bow and Arrow Thinking in the Atomic Age," *Cosmopolitan*, 1-'46.

Labor Looks to a Troubled Tomorrow

Every informed person senses, of course, that the social conflict, long controlled by the exigencies of war, is now upon the point of erupting with a new violence. An objective and thorough discussion of labor's present and coming problems will be found in a new book, *LABOR TODAY AND TOMORROW* by AARON LEVENSTEIN (Knopf, \$2.75). Although the excerpt presented here was written several months ago, we can perceive in the current scene the very conditions which the author forecast. Mr. LEVENSTEIN has practiced labor law in New York City for more than a decade. He is now on the staff of the RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF AMERICA.

Lifting the wartime lid brings labor face to face with crisis. The pressure of declining profits and highly competitive markets force employers to review labor costs. The pressure of wage deflation and increasing unemployment will make unions more demanding in collective bargaining negotiations. But even before the full burden of these stresses is felt, industrial instability will be assailed by frictions of transition.

The initial problem will involve resettling our industrial population. Reconversion will require shifting 20 million persons from war-to peacetime activity. Union memberships will be jumbled about in the economic cocktail shaker. The difficulties will be greater than those in migration toward war industries when production was expanding and jobs were begging for workers. Areas that boomed with war activity are now contracting. Cutbacks will disrupt regions like the West Coast with its aircraft and shipbuilding centers. Localities in the South, in the Midwest, in New England, will feel the blow.

The immediate consequence will be jurisdictional disputes between unions. In hard-hit areas unions will either be wiped out or will sustain themselves by claiming new jurisdictions. The survival instinct leaves little doubt of the choice they will make.

Technological changes will bring radical changes; workers will have to seek new alignments. Even now union boundaries are a crazy quilt of trades and functions, determined by accidental factors like the presence of a particular union at a particular moment in labor history, the personal appeal of individual union leaders, the relative strength and financial power of one union as compared with another.

A variety of social forces will be

at work, tearing apart the memberships of unions and sending organizers scurrying for recruits in each other's balliwicks.

New products will change the character of war industries. If a shipyard converts to prefabricated houses, the Industrial Union of and Shipyard Workers, CIO, will clash with the AFL Bldg Trades, and possibly with John L. Lewis' construction workers. During the conversion to war, that kind of conflict was avoided only because of the pressure of public opinion and the general desire to let well enough alone. Whatever union happened to be on the scene retained control even though the war product was traditionally within the jurisdiction of another union. That won't continue.

Furthermore, new production methods in established industries will transform skilled workers into unskilled workers, mere tenders of simple machines. Whole crafts will disappear. The war has taught industry how to break down highly specialized jobs into a dozen different processes, none of which requires background or training. In some cases, altogether new job classifications will emerge.

Another explosive potential is the inevitable series of plant mergers. Where different unions have been the bargaining representative in each plant, a fight for supremacy is bound to result.

In many cases workers will be reassigned to new functions as government orders are cleared from the shop. Where a plant has been a hive of craft unions, jurisdictional questions will be the order of the day. In addition, employers will be besieged by grievance claims as workers argue that they have been discriminatorily transferred. Discontent will be rife.

And in this setting—the veteran will come back!



GEMS FROM

Yesteryear

The Eternal Purpose

PAUL SCHERER

God is getting ready for some greater future than any past we have known. Either this, or all of it is a farce, and you will not make heads or tails of any of it!

It would be tragic, would it not, if such a clearing were really going on and we were to sit here unmoved by the prospect? Thinking of bread, cars, money, and mockery! Trying to rescue out of the whirling insanity of war nothing more than the comfortable sins of which we have grown so fond! Hoping against hope that the day may come when we can settle back in the old order as if nothing had happened at all! The old jealousies and the old suspicions, the old antagonisms and the old prejudices; the old careless greed and upholstered indifference to everybody's lot but our own!

I wonder how many understand that there is no mere "return" for anybody? We are not here to set the years right side up again on the same bottom they had before the bottom dropped out! We are not struggling now to restore something we used to have and liked and want to have back. God pity us if that is really what we are about: we shall never get it. We shall get tomorrow, not yesterday. But if we are done at last with the things that have brought today, that tomorrow will be God's tomorrow! There is something to stand up about, with our faces toward the sky. We are earth's own kin; but born to heaven! It is why the Bible was written. It is why the Almighty bothers with us! — Abridged from *Event in Eternity*. (Harper)

When crusty old John McGraw managed N Y *Giants*, he invariably instructed pitchers. One day the winning run was on 2nd and the *Giants* had a rookie on the mound. McGraw called time, told the rookie to waste a pitch before going to work on the batter.

The pitcher promptly grooved one, which was laced for a triple. McGraw went for his pitcher and asked, with blue-bordered decorations, "Didn't I tell you to waste one?"

"But I did," protested the baffled rookie, "My pitch was right at his waist!"—*UP dispatch*.

" "

Said one woman to another, "I hear Mrs Jones has completely lost her voice."

"Poor dear!" said the other, "I must call on her. I have been wanting to have a good talk with her for a long time."—*HELIANTHUS, Public Opinion*.



Wisecracks OF THE WEEK

Why not, Mr Truman, appoint a fact-finding and arbitration board to iron out differences between the Pres and Congress? — *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

" "

Many a man would reach a greater height if he had more depth.—*Judge*.

" "

When you argue with a fool be sure he isn't similarly engaged. — *This Month*.

" "

Boss: the man who is early when you are late and late when you are early.—*Take It or Leave It*, CBS radio show.

" "

Is it Good-by, Mr Chops, now?—*Los Angeles Times*.

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

RALPH C SMEDLEY
Toastmasters International

This is what might be termed a "slow burner." It brings a laugh if you give the "customers" time to get it:

There was an old-fashioned pawn shop with a pile of cheap suitcases in front of it. The suitcases were packed pyramid-style, with a big one at the base, a little one on top. An impecunious wanderer paused to view the display. His eye strayed to a sign on the top case: "This size for 50 cents." Thrusting his hand into an empty pocket, he said feelingly, "And so do I!"

A wartime tool shop on the East side determined to reconvert by turning out a new type of clasp knife. Early models gave them trouble; blade wouldn't flick into position properly. As company heads were in a huddle, an ex-employee entered the shop, back from Pacific. The ex-GI looked at the knife a moment, reached into his pocket and brought out an exact duplicate of the new product — but a duplicate that *worked*.

"Where'd you get that?" asked the eager execs. "Heck," said the vet, "every Jap on Okinawa had one just like it!" — *TONY WERTZEL, Detroit News*.

"What's the fuss in the school yard?" asked a passer-by.

"The doctor's been around examining us," replied the boy, "and one of the deficient kids is knocking the stuffin' out of a perfect kid."—*Jnl of Education*.

" "

Prof (taking up quiz papers): "Why the quotation marks on this paper?"

Student: "Courtesy to the man on my left."—*Medley*.

" "

A well-furred and tradition-cleaving lady — elderly — marched sturdily into one of N Y's busiest book stores recently and purchased a vol which in 300 pages made it clear that the author had discovered that the British Empire was all washed up. She carried the book gingerly to the nearest wastebasket, tore each leaf out, and finally dropped the covers in the basket after them. Then she carefully wiped her fingers, said "Nonsense," and departed triumphantly.—*Collier's*.

